Gp 2182

IN THE

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Tjandra Trisno and Chris L. Freckmann

SERIAL NO.:   09/870,880

FILING DATE: May 30, 2001

TITLE: Automatic Assignment of Addresses to Nodes in a Network

EXAMINER: David E. Martinez

GROUP ART UNIT: 2182

ATTY. DKT. NO.:   20852-05137

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below:

Dated: __10/13/04__   By: _____

Andrew Israel, Reg. No. 52,447

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement of September 13, 2004, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement.

The basis for the Examiner's restriction requirement is that the alleged Group II "has separate utility such as tracking the expired and unexpired records within an address table and the time to live of those records" and that the examination of both Groups would impose an undue burden upon the Examiner. As to the first point, the Examiner appears to base his reasoning on

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the fact that independent claim 12 from Group II contains limitations concerning address tables and records whereas independent claim 1 from Group I does not explicitly recite either address tables or records. However, Applicants respectfully point out that dependent claim 7 from Group I also contains limitations that explicitly recite both address table and records. In particular, claim 7 from Group I recites:

> 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of assigning a different network address to each of the nodes comprises:
> <u>in an address table comprising a plurality of records</u>, each record corresponding to one of the nodes, inserting the unique identifier received for a node into a record for the node; and
> inserting a different network address into each of the records based on the unique identifier in the record, wherein each node determines which network address to insert into each record in a common predetermined manner.

In comparison, claim 12 from Group II recites:

> 12. In a network comprising a plurality of nodes, a method for assigning a different network address to each node, the method comprising each node performing the steps of:
> periodically broadcasting a unique identifier for the node to the other nodes, wherein each node has a different unique identifier;
> receiving unique identifiers for the other nodes; and
> <u>in an address table comprising a plurality of records</u>, each record corresponding to one of the nodes and including a unique identifier for the node and a network address for the node:
> if a record containing the unique identifier does not exist, creating a new record and inserting the received unique identifier into the record; and
> if a record containing the unique identifier does exist, updating the record; and
> reassigning the network addresses in the records based on the unique identifiers in the records, wherein each node determines which network address to assign to each record in a common predetermined manner.

The underlined emphasis are added merely to identify the point of similarity between claims 7 and 12, with respect to address tables and records. The Examiner must search with respect to one of these two claims and, therefore, no undue burden is caused by searching for the other claim also. Furthermore, the total number of claims presented is 19, which also is not an excessive number if both Groups were examined.

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Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that both Groups I and II are drawn to substantially the same subject matter and no undue burden of search is imposed upon the Examiner by examining both Groups I and II. Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

As required by procedure, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group II. This election includes claims 12-19 and Applicants request that claims 1-11 be retained in this patent application, unexamined, pending allowance of this patent application.
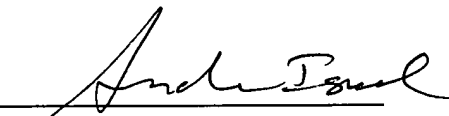
Reconsideration and favorable action are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
TJANDRA TRISNO et al.

Date: 10/13/04   By: _____

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